

National parks are not at all like military bases. They were created to establish a natural or historical legacy for future generations. They don't need a closure commission; they need more creative ways to stay open.

H.R. 260 would:

Create a park closure commission to recommend specific parks to Congress for closure, privatization or sale to the highest bidder;

Weaken Congress' statutory authority to make decisions on park management by granting broad powers to a politically appointed commission;

Send a strong signal to the American people that Congress does not have the political will to carry out its responsibilities of oversight over the National Park Service.

Exempt the 54 National Park units from closure, leaving less visited, smaller budgeted parks and important national monuments like Independence Hall, the Statue of Liberty, Mt. Rushmore, the Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson Monuments and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site on the chopping block.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m., the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CLINGER] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When the light of day illumines our days, O God, we are grateful beyond any measure for we are warmed by that light and it helps us see the way. And when that light seems dim we can falter and fail, or when we turn our heads from that light and go our own way, we can so easily miss the mark. O gracious God, giver of all good things, may we eagerly seek the light of Your presence and walk in Your way so faith will be our strength, hope will be our daily support, and love our ever present reality. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] will come forward and lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOLOMON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREFILING REQUIREMENT FOR AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 927, CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee hearing scheduled on H.R. 927, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act has been postponed until 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Due to time constraints this week, the Rules Committee may report a structured rulemaking in order only amendments prefiling with our committee. Members who wish to offer amendments to the bill should submit 55 copies of their amendments, together with a brief explanation, to the Rules Committee office at H-312 of the Capitol, no later than 1 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19.

Amendments should be drafted to the amendment in the nature of a substitute that will be made in order as base text that is available at the Office of Legislative Counsel. Members should therefore have their amendments drafted by the Legislative Counsel's office to ensure that they are properly drafted.

If Members or their staff have any questions regarding this procedure, they should contact Eric Pelletier in the Rules Committee Office at extension 5-9191.

We appreciate the cooperation of all Members in submitting their amendments by 1 p.m. tomorrow to ensure their proper consideration by the committee.

104TH CONGRESS OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to take up H.R. 260, a bill that will close many of our national parks.

Millions of Americans spent their summer vacations visiting Mount Rushmore, Bandolier, Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty. In fact, 270 million visitors came to our parks this year.

As is often the case, the 104th Congress is out of touch with the American people. On the suspension calendar today will be H.R. 260. The vote will

take place tomorrow. There is no reason for this bill to be on suspension.

All we had asked for, those of us who are concerned with this bill, is an amendment that would have permitted an alternative. An alternative through concessions, through increased fees, through a trust fund, we can finance these parks.

Mr. Speaker, let us make sure we have a process here. Let us have H.R. 260 sent back to the Committee on Rules.

The environmental community is against this. The Clinton administration is against this bill.

Let us have proper debate on it. Let us not get rushed on our national parks. We do not need a park closure commission. We need better management and new ways to finance our national parks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken on Tuesday, September 19, 1995.

EXTENSION OF DISTRICT COURT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 464) to make the reporting deadlines for studies conducted in Federal court demonstration districts consistent with the deadlines for pilot districts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 464

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CIVIL JUSTICE EXPENSE AND DELAY REDUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 104 of the Civil Reform Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 471 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking "4-year period" and inserting "5-year period"; and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking "December 31, 1995," and inserting "December 31, 1996,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. MOORHEAD] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. SCOTT] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. MOORHEAD].

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 464 which is a technical corrections bill that was introduced by Senator HATCH and passed the Senate on March 30,